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## GENERAL

1. British favor acceptance of Soviet terms for Austria --  
US Representative Reber in London, in replying to Department of State instructions to bring the Austrian treaty discussions to a close without making further concessions to Soviet demands, reports that the British Foreign Office wants to conclude an Austrian treaty at this time even though it means further concessions to the USSR. According to Reber, the British feel that the importance of completing a treaty by approximately 1 September outweighs the disadvantages of accepting present Soviet terms which they believe do not create sufficient hardship to warrant the risk of indefinite postponement of the Austrian treaty. British officials consider that western failure to reach agreement with the USSR now would have a depressing effect internationally whereas an Austrian agreement would bring real improvement and would benefit Austria by freeing the country from occupation costs and Soviet exploitation of eastern Austria. Reber comments that in reaching this decision the British have certainly been influenced by Austrian pressure for an early agreement.

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